



# Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board

## Policy

### Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Drug Schedules

Approved November 26, 2021

The *Pharmacy Regulations, 2014*, state:

13.(1) *The board may adopt the drug schedules established under the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities National Drug Schedules System.*

(2) *Notwithstanding subsection (1), a pharmacist in charge may, where he or she considers it necessary, exercise a higher degree of control over a particular drug than what is contemplated in the schedules.*

The National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA), referenced above, maintains the National Drug Schedules (NDS) Program under the oversight of the National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee (NDSAC), which includes experts from across Canada as well as other relevant representatives, and is mandated to advise the provincial regulatory authorities on matters relating to the placement of drugs within the national scheduling model and to continually evaluate and maintain the drug scheduling factors within the model.

The NDS program consists of three schedules and four categories of drugs:

- Schedule I drugs require a prescription for sale.
- Schedule II drugs require professional intervention from the pharmacist prior to sale.
- Schedule III drugs must be sold in a pharmacy but can be sold from the self-selection area of the pharmacy.
- Unscheduled drugs can be sold without professional supervision, from any retail outlet.

Once a drug scheduling submission from a pharmaceutical company is received by NAPRA, NDSAC will review the submission and make a scheduling recommendation in accordance with the NAPRA bylaws, following a “cascading principle” model in which drugs are assessed against specific scheduling factors. A drug is first assessed using the factors for Schedule I. Should sufficient factors apply, the drug remains in that Schedule. If not, the drug is assessed against the Schedule II factors, and if warranted, subsequently against the Schedule III factors. Should the drug not meet the factors for any schedule, it becomes “Unscheduled” (the fourth category).

Following its review, NDSAC will make an interim drug scheduling recommendation, followed by a 30-day consultation period, after which the NAPRA Board of Directors will make a final scheduling recommendation. The NDS are then amended, and the final recommendation is implemented according to the rules in each particular province or territory.

On November 26, 2021, the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board approved a motion to “schedule by reference”; that it, once a change to the NDS has been approved by the NAPRA Board of Directors, it will be considered in effect in Newfoundland and Labrador immediately.